

# Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA, SECOND GENERATION, Special Supplement, May 2002

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On April 22 the Board of Selectmen issued the Warrant for the Town Meeting to be held on May 6 and the Town Election on May 13. The complete text of the Warrant is printed below. It sets forth the proposed expenditure budget for the Town's Fiscal Year ending in July 2003. As expected, the biggest single expenditure is Sheffield's share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget at \$3,914,634. Notable features include the 4% excise tax on rooms in hotels, motels and inns and the Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) grant, to potentially help fund the Town Green project. STRAP grants are open to towns with populations under 3,500.

## Annual Town Meeting Warrant

### Town of Sheffield Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, ss

To the Constables of the Town of Sheffield in said County of Berkshire, *Greeting:*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the auditorium of the Mt. Everett Regional High School on Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on Monday, May 6, 2002 at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

**ARTICLE 1:** To hear and act upon the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, such sums of money as listed below, and as may be amended, necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2003, or take any other action relative thereto.

MODERATOR .....	\$165
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE .....	\$134,501
BOARD OF ASSESSORS .....	\$66,876
TREASURER/COLLECTOR .....	\$107,764
TOWN CLERK .....	\$45,345
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION .....	\$19,129
CONSERVATION COMMISSION .....	\$3,265
PLANNING BOARD .....	\$4,700
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMM. ....	\$1,000
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS .....	\$2,000
TOWN BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES .....	\$61,675
TOWN REPORT .....	\$3,000
DISPATCH SERVICES .....	\$20,800
POLICE DEPARTMENT .....	\$241,762
FIRE DEPARTMENT .....	\$28,993
INSPECTATIONAL SERVICES .....	\$31,750

*Continued on page 2*



# Town Meeting WARRANT

*Continued from page 1*

FIRE HYDRANTS .....	\$8,152
DOG OFFICER .....	\$5,700
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT .....	\$401,645
STREETLIGHTS .....	\$7,500
BOARD OF HEALTH .....	\$10,860
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION .....	\$2,850
COUNCIL ON AGING .....	\$26,612
VETERANS BENEFITS .....	\$2,400
LIBRARY .....	\$98,582
HISTORICAL COMMISSION .....	\$100
MEMORIAL DAY .....	\$600
AMERICAN LEGION .....	\$500
CARE OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES .....	\$1,188
INTEREST ON LOANS .....	\$1
BERKSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT .....	\$91,502
WORKER'S COMPENSATION .....	\$6,000
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND .....	\$1
GROUP HEALTH (32B) INSURANCE .....	\$147,000
EMPLOYER MEDICARE .....	\$9,000
INSURANCE & BONDING .....	\$45,000
FINANCIAL AUDIT .....	\$8,000

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the town will vote to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2003, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws: Moderator \$150; Selectman, Chairman \$2,000; Selectmen, two members at \$1,700 each, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$3,914,634 to pay its assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$343,386 to pay its assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$800 to pay the stipend for Sheffield's committee members of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the disposal and management of solid waste, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members, including members who also serve on the Board of Selectmen, as Title 5 Witnesses for Septic Systems Evaluation Tests and Inspections at a rate of \$30.00 per inspection, and/or Sanitation (Title 5) Inspector at an annual salary of \$500 for Fiscal Year 2002, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Overlay Surplus, and/or transfer from available funds, \$40,000 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

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**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$36,053 to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$13,223 to purchase and/or repair various equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds and/or the stabilization fund, \$75,000 to be used for the resurfacing of various paved town roads, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$750 to be used for an Emergency Response Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$10,000 to make repairs to the so-called Railroad Barn owned by the town and located behind the Town Hall and adjacent to the Housatonic Railroad, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the town will vote to reallocate the remaining funds appropriated under Article 13 of the May 11, 1987 Annual Town Meeting towards the purchase of radar traffic enforcement devices, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$4,882 to be expended towards enhanced Interlibrary loan services and computer and networking hardware and software, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. chapter 64G, Section 3A authorizing the Town to impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a hotel, lodging house or motel located within the Town of Sheffield, by any operator at a rate equal to four percent (4%) of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to make grant application(s) to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Construction under the Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) during Fiscal Year 2003, or take any other action relative thereto.

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You are also directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet in the Town Hall on Depot Street in Sheffield on Monday, May 13, 2002 at 9:00 AM then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers:

One Moderator for one year  
One Selectman for three years  
One Library Trustee for three years  
One Planning Board member for three years  
One Planning Board member for one year

All of said officers to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 9:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy in seven public places in the Town, not less than seven days before the date of said meeting.

Hereof Fail Not, and make return of this Warrant to the Town Clerk, with your doings thereon, at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the Town of Sheffield this twenty-second day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Two.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN:** Richard Kirchner     Janet Stanton     David Macy

# candidates AT-A-GLANCE

## CANDIDATE PROFILES

### Board of Selectmen:

Term: Three years

Candidates: Two -- Richard Campeglio and  
Richard Kirchner

Seats open: One



Richard (Rick) Campeglio is a new candidate (Independent) for Board of Selectmen. He was born in Great Barrington in 1965 and graduated from the North Canaan, Connecticut, public schools. He has lived in Sheffield for 14 years, twelve of those at his current Salisbury Road address which he shares with two Brittany spaniels. Campeglio works for the Sheffield Highway Department, as well as independently as a landscaper.

In the next three years, Campeglio would like to work toward finishing the town center and Berkshire School Road projects; upgrading or replacing some of the Highway Department's equipment and finding tenants for the industrial park. He would also like to see the Maple Avenue bridge redesigned in some way so it would be safer for pedestrian and bicycles to cross. Campeglio would like to make sure that townspeople know what is going on in their local government and that the lines of communication are kept open for suggestions and/or complaints, "I'll try my best to work with the people."

(See the May/June issue of the Sheffield Times for a summary of the role of the Board of Selectmen.)

### CANDIDATE PROFILES

The following are brief profiles of each of the candidates for elected office in the May 13, 2002, town elections.

The listing is in alphabetical order by board or office and by candidates last name within the same board or office. Positions are included whether there is a contest or the candidate is running unopposed.

Photos are included where possible.

Richard (Dick) Kirchner is the incumbent (Democrat). He has served on the Board of Selectmen since 1971, with the exception of one term when he was defeated in an election. Kirchner graduated from Searles High School in Gt. Barrington in 1944 and moved to Sheffield after spending two years in the U.S. Army. He was a special police officer and is currently the sanitation inspector for the Board of Health. He helped organize Sheffield's first Boy Scout Troop and belongs to the VFW and the American Legion where he is a lifetime member. Kirchner has been married for 54 years and has four adult children and eight grand and great-grand children. He and his wife, Marge, used to manage the Village Luncheonette and later the Sheffield Package Store and through the years he has worked in construction, primarily as a mason. He is now semi-retired.

In the next three years, Kirchner would like to work toward finishing the town center, Berkshire School Road and County Road projects; applying to the state to replace the bridge on Old Joe Road; and auctioning off the land owned by the town for non-payment of taxes. He would also like for the Senior Center to have a building of its own, preferably next to the Town Hall on the old school house site. Kirchner is emphatic that Sheffield should "go along with the times – we've got to have progress"

## TOWN ELECTIONS - MONDAY, MAY 13, 2002

9:00AM-7:00PM, CARLTON FRENCH MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL

## **Library Trustee:**

Term: Three years

Candidates: One -- Julie Hannum

Seats open: One



Julie Hannum is the unopposed candidate for re-election to the Board of Library Trustees where she is presently the chairman. Hannum was born in Sheffield in 1957 and has lived here all her life. She was valedictorian of her graduating class at Mt. Everett in 1975 (as was her daughter in 2001). After graduating from Westfield State Collage she received a Masters Degree in Education from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Hannum met her husband, Steve, through the Grange and from both having an interest in raising and training horses. They have two teenage children. Hannum has worked as a chemist and high school math and science teacher, and for the last six years has been at Berkshire Community College coordinating the federal grant program for public high schools. She is also a member of the State committee which reviews applications for library building grants. In Sheffield, Hannum is also active in the Old Parish Church, as Moderator and Deacon, the Friends of the Library, and is a new board member of the Sheffield Association. She also chaired the search committee for the Library Director.

Hannum's goal is to work with the new Library Director to make the library a true community center with programs and offerings for people of all ages and diverse interests. They hope to increase the interlibrary loan system to include sources throughout all of Massachusetts and to improve patrons' computer service and internet access and to address the problem of inadequate parking spaces. Hannum says, "We have a wonderful library – we need to draw more people into it!"

## **Planning Board**

Term: On years

Candidates: One -- John Downie

Seats open: One



John Downie (Republican) is the unopposed candidate to fill unexpired one year term left by the recent resignation of Dominic Palumbo. Downie has been the Planning Board alternate due to his previous 13 years of experience on the Planning Board. He was born in New Jersey and came to Sheffield in 1956 where he worked in the Sheffield Office of Wheeler and Taylor until retiring in 1981. He and his wife Audrey live in Ashley Falls on the edge of Bartholomew's Cobble. He has three adult sons including a set of twins. Since retirement he has been involved with Grace Bible Church, town activities, the Sheffield Land Trust and The Trustees of Reservations, especially Bartholomew's Cobble.

Downie believes that this is a crucial time for the Planning Board as it helps the Master Plan Steering Committee reflect what the majority of Sheffield citizens want for the future of the town. He is a member of the Steering Committee, which has been meeting twice a month to initiate the process for the Master Plan, which is to be completed by June, 2003. Downie says of Sheffield, "This is a great community – we must keep it that way."

## **Sheffield TIMES**

**Community Newsletter for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA.**

**Executive Editors:** Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott;

**Layout:** Kathy Orlando; **Advertising:** Rene Wood; **Distribution:** Ed Hotaling;  
**Staff:** Sandy & Dale Alden, Rea Eastman, Nancy Elliott, Art Kaufman, Sally Kelly,  
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**Published by:**  
The Sheffield Association, P.O. Box 1889, Sheffield, MA 01257  
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

# **candidates AT-A-GLANCE**

## **Planning Board:**

Term: Three years

Candidates: One — Rene Wood

Seats open: One



Rene Wood (Independent) is the unopposed candidate for the three year term left open by Eric Blackburn who is not seeking re-election. She and her twin sister were born in Arcadia, California in 1946. She graduated from California State University and received a masters degree in business from the University of California, Los Angeles. Wood and her husband, Dennis Sears, worked at IBM in California until 1983 when they decided to head East. They decided to make Sheffield their home in 1985 because, "we love this town." They live on Boardman Street. Wood has served on the Sheffield Planning Board's study committee for the cellular tower by-law and as an election worker. She also volunteers with Elder Services of Berkshire County and is training to be an ombudsman for nursing home residents. She is on the board of the Sheffield Historical Society and is active in the Sheffield Land Trust and both Christ Church and Old Parish Church (although she is not a member of either).

Wood believes that the next two to five years are critical as the Planning Board works with the Master Plan Committee to assure that Sheffield develops the way the majority of the town wish it to. She feels that it is important to retain the rural character which is Sheffield's charm. She is ready to work with the rest of the Planning Board and interested townspeople on by-law revisions as needed. Wood will commit her time and energy to her planning board responsibilities and hopes to "give back to this community with gratitude for what it has given me".

## **Town Moderator:**

Term: One year

Candidates: One — Bruce Person

Seats open: One



Bruce Person has served as Sheffield's Town Moderator for the last 12 years. Born in Riverton, Connecticut, he graduated from the University of Connecticut at Storrs in 1965 and Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1969. He came to Sheffield in 1971, after serving in the Air Force for two years. He established his dental practice in Great Barrington, and has been in the same office for the past 31 years. He and his wife, Barbara, have two adult sons. Person is a former chairman of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee. He is also very involved with the Great Barrington Rotary Club and is Chairman of their Scholarship Assistance Fund.

For more information on Sheffield town government, town meetings and the town elections see the May/June issue of the *Sheffield Times*.

Available May 3,  
at these public locations:

Ashley Falls Post Office  
Dewey Hall/Senior Center  
Gulotta Mobil Station  
Library  
PJs Country Convenience Store  
Sheffield Market  
Silk's Variety  
Town Hall

# SHEFFIELD TIMES READER SURVEY

Please take a few moments to tell us what you think and help us improve the *Sheffield Times*. Then tear off this sheet and return your comments to *Sheffield Times*, P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257.

THANK YOU!

1) What do you like MOST about the *Sheffield Times* coverage (Please rate each selection from 1-5, 5=MOST)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizations              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Real estate transfers      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community events & services | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feature articles            | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior center              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Town government & meetings |

2) Are there additional topics you would like to see covered? If so, please list below.

4) Where do you get your *Sheffield Times*?

- It is mailed       I pick it up      Where do you pick it up \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would suggest additional pick-up locations at:

5) How frequently would you like the *Sheffield Times* to be issued?

- Bi-Monthly (as it is now)       Monthly

6) Are there other improvements you would like to see? If so, please list below.

7) If you are interested in volunteering, what areas or aspects are of most interest to you? (Check any that apply)

- Writing: ( Business  Community  Features  Government  Organizations )  
 Editing  Proofreading  Data Entry  Mailing  Advertising  Administration

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## PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

I want to support the *Sheffield Times*! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \_\_\_\_\_, made payable to the  
Sheffield Association Fund  
P.O. Box 1339  
Sheffield, MA 01257

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(where you want the *Sheffield Times* sent)  
\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like my contribution to remain anonymous.       I'd like to get more involved with the *Sheffield Times*.

I am particularly interested in or have experience with \_\_\_\_\_

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free of charge at public distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. Everyone who makes a donation will receive a copy by mail, so please note on this form if you do not want it sent to you and we won't add to your recycling pile!

Donations are tax-deductible through a partnership with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

## How to support the *Sheffield Times* - your community newsletter

### Submit articles, news items, photos or illustrations

Spotted any interesting wildlife? Have a good idea for a story? Taken a great picture of an interesting Sheffield scene? Let us know!

Send suggestions and submissions to the P.O. box or e-mail address below. News briefs can be one or two sentences, short articles between 150 and 450 words. Run suggestions for feature stories by the editors first.

### Tell us about your events

Calendar items should be directed to the attention of the Calendar Editor and include a contact name and number in case there are questions.

### Advertise in the *Sheffield Times*

We accept ads for services and products connected with Sheffield. Sixth-pages to half-pages available, more details on page 16. Contact Rene Wood at 229-2875 or [renecwood@aol.com](mailto:renecwood@aol.com) for rates or more information.

### Support our advertisers

Most of our advertisers are local businesses. Tell them you read about them in the *Sheffield Times*!

### Make a donation

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free at distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. It's only partly supported by advertising. When you make a donation, you help make future issues possible and will get *Sheffield Times* in the mail. See the form on previous page.

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**DEADLINE FOR THE  
JULY/AUGUST ISSUE:  
JUNE 14**

**NOTE:** We have been having some trouble with the e-mail account, so if you do not hear from us please try again or contact us at the P.O. Box above. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

# Sheffield **TIMES**

Community Newsletter for  
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA  
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